AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the difference in fat content is of from 1 to 40% on a fat:energy ratio.

4. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the difference in protein content is of from 1 to 40% on a protein:energy ratio.

5. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the difference in carbohydrate content is of from 1 to 40% on a carbohydrate:energy ratio.

6. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one component is a dried ready-to-eat cereal product.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein one component comprises at least ~~40~~50% fat on an energy ratio basis and a different component comprises at least ~~40~~50% protein on an energy ratio basis.

8. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, for use in providing an optimum macronutrient diet to an animal.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, for use in animal health benefit.

11. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the food compositions are separately packaged.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A method of animal weight maintenance, the method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously providing said animal ~~unlimited quantities~~ an excess quantity of a multi-component foodstuff, the foodstuff comprising two or more compartmentalised food compositions, wherein at least two of the compositions differ from each other by at least 1% on an energy ratio basis in their content of two or more of ~~the following:~~ fat, protein and carbohydrate in which the food compositions comprise 50 to 75% fat on a fat:energy ration basis, 50 to 75% protein on a protein:energy ratio basis and 26 to 50% carbohydrate on a carbohydrate:energy ration basis; and

allowing said animal to freely self-select from the excess quantity of the compartmentalised food compositions;

wherein the driver for the self-selection is based upon a target optimum macronutrient ratio for the animal's metabolic needs in order to maintain the animal's weight.

15. (Cancelled).